

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-37. (Cancelled).

38. (New) An apparatus for providing universal web access functionality to one or more electronic devices comprising:

a plurality of configurable Input/Output ports;

a first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports configured to connect to a first controllable electronic device and to obtain status information about said first controllable electronic device;

a second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports configured to connect to a first controller and to receive control signals from said first controller for controlling said first controllable electronic device, said second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports configured to pass said control signals received from said first controller through to said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports in a manner transparent to said first controller and said first controllable electronic device;

a web server configured to serve a web page providing said status information about said first controllable electronic device.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a contention manager managing access to said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39 wherein said contention manager is configured to prevent access by one or more services to said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports while a control signal received from said first controller via said second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports is being passed through to said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein said one or more services comprise an event monitoring service for monitoring a status of said first controllable electronic device.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a buffer configured to temporarily store signals received at one or more of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 38 further comprising a pass-through service for configuring said first and second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports such that signals received at said second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports are passed through to said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said first and second configurable Input/Output ports are configured as serial Input/Output ports.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein said web server is configured to receive control information for controlling said first controllable electronic device via said web page.

46. (New) A method for providing universal web access functionality to one or more electronic devices comprising:

providing a plurality of configurable Input/Output ports on a web access apparatus;

configuring a first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports to receive a control signal from a first controller for controlling a first controllable electronic device;

configuring a second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports to receive status information from said first controllable electronic device;

configuring said first and second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports to pass said first control signal from said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports through to said second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports and to pass said status information from said second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports through to said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports in a manner transparent to said first controller and said first controllable electronic device;

configuring said web access apparatus to serve a web page providing said status information about said first controllable electronic device.

47. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

configuring said web access apparatus to prevent access to said first and second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports by other services when a signal is being passed from said first of said plurality of Input/Output ports to said second of said plurality of Input/Output ports.

48. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

configuring said web access apparatus to prevent access to said first and second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports by other services when a signal is being passed from said second of said plurality of Input/Output ports to said first of said plurality of Input/Output ports.

49. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

configuring a buffer to temporarily store said control signal received at said first of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports.

50. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:

configuring a buffer to temporarily store said status information received at said second of said plurality of configurable Input/Output ports.

51. (New) The method of claim 49 further comprising:  
  
configuring said buffer to provide said status information to an event monitoring service.

52. (New) The method of claim 45 further comprising:  
  
configuring said web access device to receive control information for controlling said first controllable electronic device via said web page.